

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

NA

REPLY TO:

3450 Administration

November 30, 1979

SUBJECT:

Progeny Test Areas

TO:

Mr. Donald E. Dorn  
Allegheny National Forest



The results of our survey of the progeny test areas in West Virginia and Pennsylvania are as follows:

West Virginia

Yellow Poplar

Bishop's Knob #642

This plantation is of particular concern to us because of the amount of dieback (36%) and basal sprouting (66%) present in the plantation. This dieback is apparently site or climatic related. There was also evidence of insect defoliation on nearly all trees.

Western Run #629

Many of these trees were overtopped and surrounded by briars (blackberry, greenbrier, black brier, locust and devils walking stick). Natural yellow poplar is outgrowing test stock. Dieback and basal sprouting were not as severe as at Bishop's Knob, but still were present in about one-fourth of the trees.

Five Lick #611

This plantation has many trees overtopped by competition and is in fair condition. Nearly 40% of the trees are absent. Close to 55% of the trees show evidence of dieback.

Black Cherry

Five Lick #617

The situation at Five Lick (619) has not changed since our last survey in 1978. Much of the cherry is overtopped by competition and is not growing well. Nearly 60% of the trees are missing. About 40% of trees shows evidence of dieback.

Five Lick #605

This plantation has large trees in good condition which have overtopped their competition. About 41% of trees show evidence of dieback. Almost 30% of the trees are absent.

Elk Lick #604

This was the best of the tree plantation at Elk Lick. The trees were bigger and in better shape than those in the other two plantations. Nearly 30% of the trees were missing or showed evidence of dieback. Black knot was present on about 25% of the trees.

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Elk Lick #610

The trees were small and overtopped by beilers. Over 30% of the trees showed evidence of dieback. About 25% of the trees were missing.

Elk Lick #616

The trees were small (most were no bigger than seedlings) and of poor form, and overtopped by briars which were extremely dense and 5'-6' tall. Nearly 40% of the trees exhibited dieback. About 30% of the trees were missing.

Buzzard Ridge #609

Trees were in good condition. No important insect or disease problems. Recent TSI job opened crowns considerably.

Buzzard Ridge #615

Trees were in good condition. About 50% of the trees were missing. Nearly 50% of the trees exhibited dieback and 30% exhibited basal sprouting.

Buzzard Ridge #624

Trees were in excellent condition. No important insect or disease problem.

Black Walnut

Fitzwater (South)

Trees showed very heavy frost injury, dieback, and plant bug injury. Basal sprouting was evident in over 40% of the trees. The trees were in fair condition.

Fitzwater (North)

Trees showed very heavy frost injury, dieback, and plant bug feeding. Basal sprouting was very evident. The dieback is apparently climatic or site related. The dieback has caused the trees to lose several years of growth until a new central leader develops from basal sprouts. A nurse crop of autumn olive was planted and should afford some help with frost problems here.

Fernow

The trees were in fair to good condition. The most serious problems were dieback and plant bug feeding.

White Ash

Fernow

The trees were in fair to good condition. The most serious problems were deer browsing and dieback. I think dieback may be directly related to injury caused by deer feeding.

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Pennsylvania

Black Cherry

Hemlock Run #600,606,612

These plantations were heavily overgrown by briars and many trees were overtopped by competition. The trees were in fair condition. Dieback was the most serious problem in these plantations.

Blue Jay #100,102,104,108

These plantations were in good condition with very little insect, disease, and animal damage. Probably the most serious problem was dieback, which occurred in about 25% of the trees.

Greeley Farm #607,613

These plantations were very brushy with many briars. Over 80% of the trees were absent. The remaining trees were in fair condition. Dieback was the most serious insect or disease problem.

Twin Lakes #602

This plantation was in good condition with less than 20% of the trees absent. Dieback affected nearly 45% of the trees.

Nystrom Farm #106

This plantation was in fair to good condition. Less than 20% of the trees were absent. The most important problem was dieback which affected over 50% of the trees.

White Ash

Scott Run

The plantation was in good condition. The trees were protected by fiberglass screening except on top where about 20% of the trees suffered browsing damage by deer. Dieback was evident in over 30% of the trees.

Nystrom Farm

This plantation had over 80% of its trees missing. Over half of the remaining trees were in good condition. Deer browsing was the most important problem in this plantation, in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Most of the black cherry, yellow-poplar, black walnut, and white ash had some insect feeding in the foliage. Similarly, fungi which cause leaf spots and anthracnose were present on all tree species examined. These conditions are normal for mid-summer and are no cause for concern.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss any of these findings.

JAMES R. ALLISON  
Pathologist

cc: FIDM, Broomall

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